

Ladylike

Exploring & Expressing Femininity

Meet Profile Girl
**Ellen
McKinnon**

Photo Feature
**The Queens
of Shampoo**



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Flash Back
**The
French
Travesti**

Dating Issues

**Top 10
Rules &
Where
Does it
End?**

**TVideo Review,
Letters, Letters,
& Lots of Photos!**

Editorial

This issue we seem to have focused on sex. We've got some articles on sex, letters on sex... and lots of sexy pictures. Well, we spend a lot of time thinking about sex so, what the heck, let's talk about sex!

In the TG community there are a lot of people struggling with serious gender issues. There are also a lot of people struggling with issues around sexuality. How many times have you been talking with your girlfriends at a group meeting, in a chat room, or at a community event and heard someone say (or said it yourself) "I'm thinking that it might be fun to date a guy."? Of course, dating a man is the ultimate proof of your allure, isn't it? You can get a graduate degree in crossdressing if you start dating a fella. (Just kidding girls, they don't give a BC degree... Bachelor of Crossdressing.) You know how much you turn yourself on, look at all those pictures of you in short dresses and spike heels. How many mirrors do you own? But, does your allure extend to regular guys?

Let's think about that one for a minute. Looking at yourself in the mirror is a turn on... because you're a crossdresser. As a crossdresser you may be seeing all the best of your femme self and subconsciously blocking out any little flaws. Will regular guys notice those flaws... like that Adam's Apple bulge in your throat? Will they feel your beard stubble if they happen to lean over for a romantic kiss? What about that wig, girl? What if he impetuously decides to run his fingers through your long blonde hair? Very romantic, but what if he snags the wig band at the back of your head? Just a few of the concerns that a girl with something extra has to carry with her on a date with a man who's not clued in to all her... ahem, charms.

And that's not all we bring along on a date with a guy. A lot of us have baggage about romance, ideas about how a gentleman should treat a lady that we picked up many, many years ago. Because we are crossdressers, we may have even acted like those romantic visions of gentlemanly behavior

when we escorted a GG out for an evening. Flowers, doors being held open, that firm manly hand in the small of your back as he walks you to the dance floor, his strong arms as you dance... making you feel so soft and petite. Ah, those romantic dreams. Hey! Wake up and smell the perfume!

Most of the men you meet will not be interested if they find out you don't have certain equipment. Some may even get violently upset when they catch on. That's why dating straight guys is not a good idea. Go out and mingle with them if you must but don't ever make the mistake of thinking he'll always be fooled. Even if he is so besotted by your glamour (the dictionary says: "a mysterious fascination; alluring charm" or "a magic spell or influence; enchantment...", can you say Brothers Grimm?) that he doesn't have a clue about what's lurking in your pantyhose, someone else might take it on themselves to out you in the midst of your fun. Talk about social tension.

So what's a girl to do? Guys who are into dating TG girls are available, but they are going to expect more than a chaste kiss at the end of the night. Are you prepared to follow through? Aunt Angela says, if you are not involved in any relationship and you have met a guy who treats you right... go for it. Be sure you follow safer sex practices and have fun. What are you worried about? Afraid you might be gay? If you're only turned on by the thought of being a woman on a date with a guy and not turned on by the guy's body then you're likely not gay. You're happy, but not gay.

And it's the perfect match... he's turned on by your glamour, you're turned on by being treated like a woman. You're just helping each other out. Just remember, girls, practice safer sex, always.



#40 LadyLike

Exploring & Expressing Femininity

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Main cover photo courtesy of Ellen McKinnon,
inset of Natasha by Randy Thomas

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Publisher

JoAnn Roberts

Editor

Angela Gardner

Sales & Advertising

CDS, PO Box 61263

King of Prussia, PA 19406-1263

Phone: 610.640.9449

email - LLmag@cdspub.com

Web Page - <http://www.cdspub.com/LL.html>

Ellen McKinnon

Name: Ellen McKinnon

Age: Early 40's

Profession: Professor, Writer

Residence: Southern California

Height: 5' 9"

Weight: 155 lbs.

Measurements: 36-28-36

Shoe Size: 10

Dress Size: 10-12

Favorite Things

Department Store: Nordstrom

Shoes: Nine West

Makeup: M•A•C

Favorite Look: Sexy, Sophisticated

Career Woman

Books: The Great Gatsby, Leaves of Grass

Music: Classical, Jazz

Hobbies: Piano, Cooking, Jogging,

Cats, Wine, Travel, Tennis, Good

Conversation

Perfume: Mitsouko by Guerlain

Lingerie: Victoria's Secret

Clothes: Sexy Lingerie, Evening Gowns,
panty hose & stockings

Places: Fancy Bars, Restaurants,

Concerts, Theaters

Turn On's: Flirting, Open Honest

People, Dressing up and doing the
Town, Martinis

Turn Off's: Religious Fundamentalists,

Bigots, Rednecks, Guns, Macho Men,

Jerry Springer

Most Outrageous Moments: Attending

a friends baby shower as her pregnant

sister and co-leading a women's

aerobic class!





Hey, we know these bimbos!

A Woman of Many Looks

Other times, I would transform myself into a sophisticated society lady, like my Mom, and wear her gowns, high heels, gloves, and mink stoles.

LL: *Wow, you had it all going on. Lot's of free time and a diverse wardrobe. What happened next?*

Ellen: Everything was fine until I heard a radio preacher quoting the Bible denouncing crossdressing as a "sin." I had terrible guilt feelings. Eventually, I told my parents, who freaked out. My dad, fearing I was gay, asked me if I would rather make love to a "truck driver or Marilyn Monroe." I didn't tell him I just wanted to be Marilyn Monroe!

LL: *What did your mother think?*

Ellen: Mom, of course, blamed herself. I didn't cross-dress again until college, when I would borrow my

LL: *Ellen, what was the first article of women's clothing you ever wore?*

Ellen: At age 8 I tried on my older sister's girdle. Unfortunately, my older brother came into my sister's bedroom and I took things off rather quickly.

LL: *That always puts a damper on crossdressing. When did you get up the nerve to try it again?*

Ellen: One evening, when my parents were at a dinner party, my Mom left her girdle and stockings in the bathroom and I tried them on. From that moment, I was hooked! Ellen was born!

For the next several years, through my high school years, I would come home and try on my mother and sisters' clothes. With my sister, a former teenage beauty queen, away at college, I had Carte Blanche to try her makeup, dresses, shoes, and lingerie. I would come home from school, dress up as my sister — once in her old girl scout uniform — and transform myself into her "little sister."



continued



girlfriend's things occasionally, always followed by guilt and confusion.

LL: How did you handle that?

Ellen: I began reading everything I could get my hands on regarding crossdressing and then decided I should try counseling. The young psychiatrist I began seeing actually knew less about the subject than I did. I would have to say that at this point, counseling was a complete waste of time.

LL: That's one we've heard from a lot of transgender people. In most case the therapists could have paid us to teach them. What about girls and a social life?

Ellen: I had discovered girls about the same time and my hormones started raging. I eventually fell in love with my future wife. I would try to dress her

up in sexy clothes and makeup in the hopes it would take away my desires to dress. However, it only increased it.

LL: Did you tell her about your crossdressing?

Ellen: I told her before we were married. However, perhaps out of denial, she dismissed it as a "passing phase." I went dormant throughout graduate school.

LL: That must have been tough.

Ellen: One day in my late 20's, I announced to my wife, in a tearful, emotional display, about my need to dress. She accepted this, but stated she neither wished to see it or participate. The arrangement continued until her untimely, tragic death.

LL: I'm so sorry to hear that. What did you do?

Ellen: Faced with being a single parent, yet feeling my feminine stirring more and more, I began to dress more frequently.

I had a second attempt at therapy, and this time the counselor suggested I accept myself for who I was and begin dressing regularly. This I did. Then, however, I began to experience strong urges to go out publicly.

LL: Another thing we've heard from most crossdressers. How did your public debut go?

Ellen: I contacted a professional makeup and skin care artist and she took an hour to do my makeup. Once she was done, I could not believe how attractive I looked. We became friends and went out as "girlfriends" to din-

ner, concerts, and the theater. I also began to purchase high quality women's clothing, undergarments, and wigs. I began passing as a woman rather easily.

LL: You're lucky with your height and weight.

Ellen: I began voice lessons, which have helped me to obtain a female voice. At that time I also met a rather prominent TV personality in the Los Angeles area who taught me a lot about the in's and out's of successfully crossdressing in public. I visited the Queen Mary in Los Angeles and began to compare notes with other girls and I became acquainted with a couple of drag queens who taught me many tricks of the trade.



LL: *Sounds as if you were finally blossoming. What happened next.*

Ellen: I won a Halloween costume contest at a large club when I dressed as a sexy barmaid and made a dramatic breakthrough in self-confidence. After that experience, I began to go out to clubs, bars, restaurants, as well as concerts, travel, and even church, as a lady. I also began to flirt with men and enjoyed being asked to dance and having guys buy me drinks!

LL: *Now that can be a dangerous pass time if you're going to straight places. Some fellas don't appreciate a girl with something extra. Did you start dating guys?*

Ellen: I remained interested in women, and eventually met and married my second wife...again, after tell-

ing her of my crossdressing desires.

LL: *Being honest as soon as possible is always the best policy. How did she take it?*

Ellen: Soon after our marriage, we attended a "switch sexes" Halloween party where the men all came decked out as women and the females came as guys. I was a French maid, and was easily the cutest, most realistic lady there. In fact, several women came over to my wife and commented about what an attractive "woman" her husband made. You can imagine how that went over! That was the last time she ever went out with me dressed. We grew further and further apart and eventually divorced. Crossdressing, while playing a large role in our breakup, wasn't the primary reason. We learned we were very different.

LL: *So you were a single woman again? How did you fill your idle hours?*

Ellen: I began to see a succession of women. Some I told of my crossdressing, some I didn't. Some were okay with it, a few weren't. I still have not found anyone yet whom I would want to spend the rest of my life with, but I haven't given up finding her! I love women a great deal and enjoy dating. I have been told I am a handsome, charming man, who really understands women. I am very good at romance. However, Ellen is always there with me, and my future partner must be able to accept this.

LL: *How about gal pals for Ellen?*



Any female friends?

Ellen: I have several women friends whom I enjoy going to restaurants, clubs, cultural events, and shopping with. I have also learned first hand all the crap women must put up with from men.

LL: *When ladies say that men are pigs they speak from experience. Where did these fellas try to take advantage of you?*

Ellen: Often, I'll pop into a club or bar and get hassled by guys "hitting" on me. While flattering at first, it has gotten pretty old.

LL: *Most of them don't have a very good line, do they?*

Ellen: Sometimes I will meet a real gentleman who knows how to treat a lady. It's exciting to be held in a hand-

continued





We think you'll agree, Ellen is a t-girl with many varied looks and she can pull each of them off very well.





some guy's arms as you are dancing and to flirt ever so coyly. This is as far as I go, however. Because even though Ellen can be attracted to guys, I prefer women for intimate encounters.

LL: *I know, facial hair can be a real glamour remover, literally! A mustache will take your beard cover right off, girl. What other things does Ellen enjoy?*

Ellen: Well, recently I had the pleasure of co-running an all women's aerobic class! It was tons of fun. Even though I'm constantly dieting and stay in good shape, the women's aerobic classes were actually much more challenging than my daily workouts.

Last Halloween, I won a costume contest as Marilyn Monroe at a famous hotel. Imagine my surprise when the local news anchor interviewed me for the 10 o'clock news! I was terrified, but it was great fun. Several friends at work saw the news and couldn't believe it was me! Another recent kick was showing up at a friend's baby shower seven months pregnant! I must say, I did get some pretty strange food cravings that day!

LL: *You seem to have a very active life as Ellen. Are you involved with any TG support groups?*

Ellen: I belong to a local gender support group in Southern California. I really enjoy speaking to college classes on the subject of crossdressing. I also have a number of friends who know about my crossdressing, although I am very selective whom I share this with.

LL: *Where does the name 'Ellen' come from?*

Ellen: A former girlfriend, of course.

LL: *What do you see for Ellen in the next century?*

Ellen: As the millennium approaches, I feel very comfortable with myself. More and more of the time, I feel comfortable and most happy when Ellen. Yet, I don't think I'd want to live full time. There are just too many things I enjoy doing as a man.

LL: *Many TG folks are opting for a bigendered approach to life. Best of both worlds. Do you think you can balance your gender expression?*

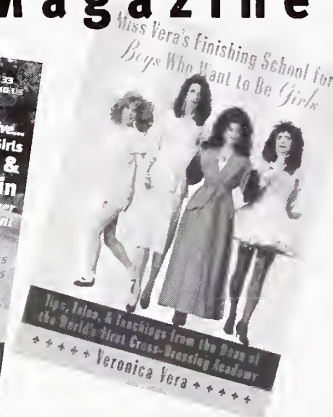
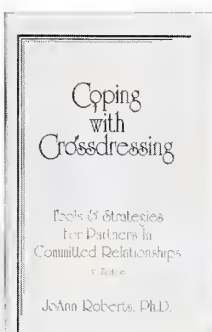
Ellen: As I get older, Ellen is having much more of an influence on me. Particularly as I find men interested in her. Someday I will have to see where "her" very normal physical desires lead me. I know I enjoy wearing dressy, sexy, glamorous evening gowns. I can't wait for New Year's Eve!

LL



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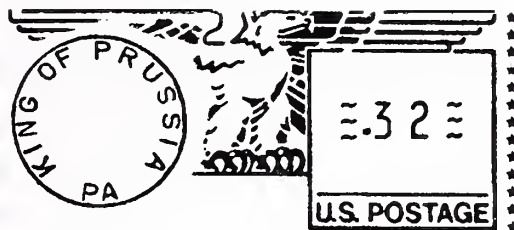
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Letters



Looking for Pen Pals

Please allow me to intraduce myself. My name is Shelli Wright. I'm a pre-op transsexual and I'm incarcerated. I'm looking for same support from other girls if possible. I'll answer all letters. Write to me at:

Shelli L Wright #102077
3001 W Hwy 146, La Grange KY 40032

A Great Offer!

Dear LadyLike readers: If anyone is interested in the first 20 issues of LadyLike magazine, I will accept any reasonable offer. I prefer to sell them all in one lot.

Thanks, Don Roche
PO Box 3221, Palmer AK 99645

Crossdressing Was A Crutch

A few wards from an older crossdresser who enjoys the magazine very much. I have been dressing since middle school, started on a dare and was hooked. It progressed little by little for many years; trying sister's duds till she went to college, then sometimes I wish I could forget. I was married but after 25 years we parted company. After that I used crossdressing as a crutch.

I find I want to portray a well groomed lady, perhaps not the latest style, but what a lady should look like. Sexy, yet reserved. We each have our likes and dislikes and I figure, to each their own. I enjoy LadyLike very much.

Hope this can be put in and pardon the poor typing as I use the hunt and peck system. I have gained a few friends through LadyLike but a few people don't have the courtesy to just drop a line and say no.

Lea
0385 W.S.R. 120
Hawe, IN 46746



Lea

Made Lots Of Friends

Well first of all, thank you again and again for my photo in the last three issues of LadyLike. I've lost track of how many times you have printed my photo and still each and every time I still get so excited seeing myself in



Alison

print. What I really wanted to tell you was about all the lovely girls I have met because of your fine publication. I know that you are not in business to help girls make contact with others but it does happen. The friends I have made because of LadyLike have helped me to grow my femme side. These girls I now call my friends have all turned out to be such nice people. I can't explain it, however, every one of them is so sweet. I'm enclosing a photo of Leslie and myself that I took when I visited her earlier this year. We met when you published our photos on the same page under "AOL girls." Leslie is such a sweetheart, even though she looks hard in the photo... I've told her she needs to smile more. I learned that from an article in LadyLike a few issues ago.

I can't recall reading any recent news in LadyLike about laser hair removal. I've been doing it now for 9 months and really like the results. I bring this up because the price has really gone down recently... guess it's the competition. I know it's not for everyone but it's something to consider if that yucky body hair turns you off.

Do you know what else is cool? Kadak has a digital photo service where they will print and send you a hard photo from your digital photo. No need to even leave the house and they do accept the file in many different formats. Just a thought.

Well thanks for listening to me and please never ever stop publishing LadyLike, OK?

Yours,
AlisonCD@aol.com

JoAnn replies — We're very glad to hear that you've made such great friends through the magazine. I'm sorry we couldn't print the photo of you and Leslie without Leslie's permission, too. We are working on a laser hair removal article for a future issue.

Had A Ball At Southern Comfort

I loved the interview with Raxy! Occasionally we swap letters so I know just how good a storyteller she can be, as well as being a beauty that can get the most out of a camera. I'd love to meet her in person someday,



Teeje (l) & Heather

How To Submit Photos

If you include your mailing name and mailing address **on the back** of your photo, we will print your address with your photo in the magazine so people can write to you directly. **If you are a subscriber**, we'll forward mail for you for the length of your subscription. Write your customer number on your photos. **If you are NOT a subscriber**, include \$10 with your photo and we will forward mail to you for 1 year. **Note:** Do not write on the photos with ball point ink. Use a permanent marker.

How To Reply to Photos

If you want to write to someone whose picture appears in the magazine, look for an address and write directly. Or, look for a forwarding number like FWD9999 with the photo. If there is a FWD number, write your letter, put it in an envelope and **in pencil** write the FWD number on the front. For **each** letter to be forwarded, put your letter in its envelope, correct postage in stamps and \$2 in another envelope (#10 or larger) and mail it all to us here at *LadyLike Magazine*, c/o PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406-1263.

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Single issues: U.S. — \$13; Canada/Mexico — \$15; Overseas — \$17

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Letters...

perhaps at one of the gender events. I've already had some luck in that department.

I recently attended the 1999 Southern Comfort Conference. Atlanta is a friendly, gracious place, evidenced by the acceptance shown to everyone going out and about during broad daylight. The people and shops in the huge Lennax shopping center across from the hotel were especially nice.

I have some friends in that part of the country that I only see once a year, and we've started a few traditions you won't find in the SCC program guide. The Unofficial Fetish Costume Contest is held by consensus on the night we go to The Chamber, a B&D fetish club. No prize is given, just competitive spirit to see who will go the farthest into the "dark side." The winner this year may be Heather, who made the most of wearing the least.

Before 9 am the next morning the 3rd Annual Swimsuit Photo Shoot took place, which required the resurrection of the dead in my case. We arranged for a professional photographer to be there, but were delighted when a writer/photographer team from Marie Claire magazine also showed. They came to do an article on Southern Comfort and interviewed many of us. Nina, the shutterbug, seemed particularly inspired so I hope those pictures make it into the January issue (tentative) of the Marie Claire.

There are too many stories to tell in this one letter, but I wanted to share a few of the photos and experiences with you and your readers.

Until next time, (count on it!)

Teeje

Caught In The Dressing Room

Dear JoAnn, Angela and the rest of your fabulous staff: My name is Darla and I am from Colorado. LadyLike is without question the best magazine in existence for



Darla

TGs. You always seem to fill it with invaluable information and very tasteful photos. For "girls" like me who just want to be girls it is nice to see a magazine that is not filled with sexual innuendo. I pride myself in looking as much like a woman as possible. I have been in public many times and have never had a problem. I have found that even if someone knows that you are not a biological woman, if you present yourself as a woman and conduct yourself in a "LadyLike" manner, they will treat you as a woman. I discovered that one time when I was shopping for a new dress and the salesgirl came into the dressing room at the wrong time to check on me. I explained what I was and she treated me like any other girl because I conducted myself just like any other girl.

I am sending a few photos of myself, I hope they are worthy of being printed in your magazine. I would love to be a part of your publication. My favorites are of me looking like a career girl but I spend a lot of time in a simple jumper when I am at home doing housework, reading, or putting in the yard so I am sending along a couple of me with that look also.

Keep up the wonderful work, you help many of us. I am proud to consider myself a new "woman" thanks partially to you.

Love, Darla

Angela says — You're right Darla, a lady like presentation will get you far. But, common sense helps a lot. I'm guessing that you were using one of those large open fitting rooms that some stores favor. I can't imagine the sales girl walking in on you in one of the single booth type rooms, unless you left the door open or something. Always avoid the large open fitting room. The sales girl could have been not as understanding and you could have taken a ride downtown with some nice men in blue uniforms. Not the perfect end to an afternoon of shopping. Don't get wrong, I think you have every right to try on a dress anywhere. The police may not be as open minded and even if you ultimately beat the rap it's not a lot of fun. Stay safe out there. (JoAnn adds — You look great but the photos are so-so. Polaroids really don't cut it these days. You need a better camera. We'd love to see more.)

Has Lots Of Questions

It was a pleasure seeing my article in issue 38. Hopefully, it achieved its intent. We should be looking up, and not down. We should be honest with ourselves, and go from there. Now it is my turn to seek.

Countless articles and books have helped us be ourselves, but no one has told us how it is actually accomplished. Paradise in the Poconos has brought up many questions. I have heard some girls opted for implants rather than do hormones. How are they faring? If hormones are an option, how do we approach a doctor? Even better, how do we find a doctor within our health plan. Wealth is not a God given attribute.

I have noticed a few of the girls at the beach (Revenna, issue 32 & Tiffany Michelle, issue 38). Hey girls, is this your hair, or a wig? How do we go into the water if it is a wig? Speaking of wigs, how do the girls in the South cope with the heat?

Epilite 9 was mentioned at the [Poconos]. Could someone provide more information about it? I have talked to one of the girls regarding it, and she is very satisfied. I know I loaded your wagon, but if some of the girls can send JoAnn the information I will be all too happy to put it in an article. Names are not important, just information.

If any of the girls require help that I can provide; JoAnn can forward your letter. In the meantime remember; Life is short so be all you can be!

Rachael

Angela replies — We're glad you got to see your article. Thanks for submitting it for our consideration. How do we be ourselves? That's a question a little too deep to answer here. Throughout the history of the world there have been people, not just TG people, who surmounted the general "guess this is how it is" attitude of the rest of the inhabitants and asked that same question. As for TG folks looking for guidance in the nuts and bolts of gender shift, there are now more resources available than ever before. Organizations like Renaissance, IFGE, FtM International and others, have lots of information and can give referrals to gender knowledgeable therapists. Renaissance is helping to educate professionals in the gender field by presenting a conference that will bring together the academic, therapy and TG community to discuss all the aspects of TG issues. It's called the 4th International Congress on Crossdressing, Sex & Gender and it takes place in May of 2000. Contact Renaissance for more information or visit the Congress website, <<http://www.ren.org/4thCongress.html>>.

Implants over hormones? Keep in mind that unless you are going all the way in an approved gender change program it's a good idea to leave the 'manes alone. Self-medicating with hormones can result in complications you really don't want. And, no, your medical insurance won't cover estrogen unless you have a condition that requires it as a treatment such as prostate problems, but that is really not clear thinking. Implants have their problems, too. I totally understand that having a lovely pair of breasts would make crossdressing (and passing) easier, but, are you living as a woman? What would you do with them when you had to appear in male mode? Chest binding? What would your significant other think about you having breasts? Your family? If you are going full time your approved gender program will help you answer these questions and give you information about the effects, positive and negative, of hormones.

continued on page 15



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Letters...

The beach? Tiffany Michelle and Rovenno have their own hair so they're free to covort in the waves whenever they feel like it. Other girls go to the pool or the beach with their wigs pinned on and then really try not to get their heads wet. Feel like spending big money just so you will look natural at the shore? Buy a human hair wig, pin it on and dive on in. Make sure you keep it on while you shower. Yo gotta get the salt out, doll.

Epilight has been with us long enough to know that it is not permanent. It lasts for a few months but you have to go back for more treatments. We'll have an article on Epilight and some other hair coping methods in an upcoming issue.

Idea For A New Organization

I hope you will print this letter in the next issue of LadyLike as it may be helpful, in the long run, to our TS/TG community.

I am a pre-op M-F transsexual, currently incarcerated, and have spent most of the past ten years conducting extensive research into the realm of TS/TG issues, from personal, legal and medical perspectives. In all that time, I have found that many of us are professionals in various fields that could be influential in the many fights and interests toward bettering our concerns. However, as most such individuals know, one or few people rarely can make a difference.

I have recently formulated an idea for a new group that may have the potential to remedy this problem. There are countless groups and organizations established for the purpose of emotional and social support and educational or "coming out" support, but very few organizations dedicated to fighting for our rights and concerns. We have GPAC, our political fist with which to fight for our rights,

yet more and more it seems as if GPAC is becoming a political fight unto itself and losing the meaning behind its very creation.

It is my idea to formulate a group of experts or professionals in various fields who can, at a minimum, give advice and suggestions to others in our community. For example, if a TS/TG person seeks legal advice about some type of issue pertaining to TS/TG issues, they are forced to seek out a lawyer from the yellow pages or a copy of that State's Lawyer's Diary. Yet, if there was a group of professionals, whether TS/TG or otherwise, with at least one lawyer on the board, s/he could offer advice to people in our community on how to go about their legal concern or provide referrals to lawyers who could help.

Similarly, if a TS/TG were arrested or sent to prison and needed to learn what to expect, maybe we would have corrections officers or prison staff familiar with that person's concerns, or cops and court officials, etc.

Our community is small as compared to the gay community, but surely there are TS/TG people out there who are lawyers, cops, politicians, financial experts, judges, tax professionals, medical experts or practitioners, and so on. My goal is to bring these people together in a group that will help, give advice and/or suggestions, and maybe write articles or commentaries on subjects and issues pertinent to our community or individual needs.

As a prisoner, I am handicapped in my ability to start and run such a group, but I'm sure there are many who would be interested enough to write to me to hear more, possibly give some input or criticism or advice, and I'm hoping maybe some such professionals who respond would be willing to step up to Board of Directors positions and run this group in the form of a newsletter. I have many ideas, from generating finances to editing and publishing articles and stories, and so much more. All I need to begin with is for those people to write to me and take that first step. I welcome any and all input or criticism, any questions or advice, and ask all to respond to this article.

Mark Brooks
90A6426-Clinton C.F.
P.O. Box 2001
Donnemoro, N.Y. 12929

Thank you for your time, consideration, and the best publication our community is blessed to have!

Jessico (Mark) Brooks

Angelo says — The TG community certainly does have a lot of professional people who could do a lot to help. Unfortunately many of those professionals are very closeted and are afraid to even tell others in the community what they do for a living. Maybe your letter will kick some of them in the skirt and get them motivated to help.

There is an organization that offers lawyer referrals. NLGLA is the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association and they have a directory of GLBT lawyers for 38 of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, plus Ontario,

Canada, and Israel. You can order a copy through NLGLA, PO Box 180417, Boston, MA 02118, attention: Chris Norris or John Affuso. It costs \$10 but some of the community organizations may have a copy on hand. Good luck with your new organization.

A Valuable Lesson

Enclosed are more photos of me taken in August and I'm now a year older at 57. I stopped dressing for 8 months because I found myself wanting it too much, enough so that going full time was being considered. Somehow I was able to pull myself off this path to disaster and clear my head.

Like most of us in the CD world I have wanted to be a girl/woman all my life, or at least dress up like one. All my early attempts at achieving a possible feminine look and shape were failures until 4 years ago when I really took the "bull by the horns" and decided to get my act together. I have to admit the results you see here even shocked me. What is worrisome to me is the intense desire to take things further and further.

continued on page 16



Letters...

Over the past 8 months I've worked out my problem with living full time and am quite positive I'll never go there. Alos, something else has come to the forefront and a new internal battle is taking place. As heterosexual as I am, and believe me I AM, I find myself wanting to go on dates with men. Not gay or bi-guys, but CDs like myself who "knows the score." I just want to be dated and treated like a woman without any of the sexual stuff that follows, though I even wonder how long that will last.

We all know our desire to dress never goes away, but this constant need to take things to the next level can be a problem. I'm not sure how I will handle this next step, but I have already accepted a date with a "fellow" CD in a few weeks. We have been writing each other for over a year, spoken often on the phone and have used each other's shoulder many times to air out our problems. I can only hope common sense will prevail while we're together.

I suppose there is no answer to the question "where does it all end?" Maybe one of you girls out there can help me with an answer. In the meantime, I'm as giddy as a teenager about to embark on her first date. Hey, IT IS!!

Lots of hugs,

Brendo Lawrence, PO Box 423
Huntley, IL 60142

Angelo says — The idea of "taking it to the next level" seems to be running rampant in our community. We get letters all the time about girls wanting to date men, take hormones, and have surgeries to be more like a woman. Could the idea of climbing through "levels" (who decides what these levels are?) be a really focussed masculine idea? Does the Pope wear a big hat? The biggest danger of hovering on active TG community is that peer pressure may make people take a certain course without the complete consideration of all the facts. (Remember a lot of us may be middle aged men but we're only teenage girls when it comes to dressing — talk about responsive to peer pressure.) The point with anything, not just TG stuff, is to do what you need to do as long as it makes sense in the context of your situation in life. You call living full time a "path to disaster." For some it is, for others it is a well thought out and implemented adjustment to their lifestyle. You made the decision that's right for you and that's what's important.

As for dating, see my editorial in this issue. Have fun on your big date and don't do anything I wouldn't. OK, that does leave a lot of latitude. Just remain lady like at all times. Oh, and be home by 11, young lady.

JoAnn put her two cents in — This letter from Brendo prompted me to write her directly and as a result you're going to be reading a lot about Brendo and her thoughts on tg lifestyles. I hope you'll enjoy them as much as I did.

An Unusual CD'er

Hi! Remember me? Roxanne Von Ness? (Not to be confused with a foxier namesake!) The woman-of-colour wannabe? Well, I'm back!!!

You'll recall how, years ago, I was experimenting with not only assuming the role of the opposite gender, but acquiring a "deeper skin tone" as well. Of course, my earlier inroads into both worlds proved horribly inadequate and — in retrospect — you were quite correct in pointing out some of my shortcomings. That was, if memory serves, circa 1992 - 1993.

Sadly, life hasn't turned out to be all fun and games since that time. Quite the contrary! In fact, I've been forced to endure twelve years of personal Hell starting in 1987 — the most crushing blows coming with the deaths of both parents. (Mom passed away of Parkinson's disease in 1995, Dad of prostate cancer last summer.) I'd cored for each singlehandedly through a very stressful 66 months; luckily, their illnesses weren't simultaneous.

Circumstances notwithstanding, I have managed to dress much more frequently, regularly since 1997. I've experienced corresponding as a woman, keeping house as a woman, venturing out and sleeping as a woman! (I guess my detractors were right. I do have Rox in my head!) I'd like to think my femme persona has come a good way - but I'm wise enough to realize there lies a much longer road ahead.

As for my darker-complexioned alter ego — call her "Deneece" — only two or three sessions have been devoted to her development annually. (Like, the gal is overly time consuming and terribly messy. Hey! I'd ask the maid to clean up, but she also happens to be me!) Nevertheless, there appears to have been a significant evolution thus far. As evidence, enclosed are three photographs, all taken in 1998. My fingers, toes, and eyes remain crossed in the hope that one or more will be deemed suitable for publication in LadyLike. (Please please?)



Again, my trials of portraying a woman of African descent were designed neither to parody, nor ridicule, nor insult. I certainly wouldn't wish to hurt anyone's feelings! (Heck, if the situation were reversed and on honest attempt made, I'd be flattered! Fer shur!)

African-American (or Canadian) females are beautiful in a special way - as are Asians and Caucasians. In fact, sometimes I wish I'd been born one - female, that is. Alos we are what we are. (No, I'm not complaining.)

I've rambled on long enough. Methinks I'd best end this letter and moll it before something else decides to go wrong. After the kind of dozen years I've had, one tends to broce herself for the worst.

JoAnn responds — I don't know why but Roxanne intrigues me. I remember her initial photos and to be kind I'll just say she needed work. However, she's "grown" into a very attractive woman and I hope we'll see more of her, especially Deneece.

I'd like to hear from other readers who have experimented with changing race as well as gender. How do others feel about it? And would you like to see more of Roxanne and/or Deneece? Write us here at the office.

Looking For Fiction

I just wanted to say, I think you have a fine publication in LadyLike. I am a crossdressing enthusiast and consider myself a female illusionist.

Here, in Phoenix, I'm fairly well known in the 'community' and do have fans nationwide. I'm also a professional writer. Maybe you should consider a fiction piece per issue. A lot of people like articles of that nature. I've had two stories published in Leg Show magazine.

Anyway, I am enclosing two photos for publication in your 'Mirror, Mirror' section. You may run the photo of your choice and please include my mailing address.

If you would ever like to run a feature/interview with me, I would love to participate. In the future I would also like to send you information regarding my upcoming book and film on the transgendered. I'm certain your readers would find these pieces interesting and informative.

Any questions or comments you may have on all I've mentioned will be answered and appreciated.

Sincerely,

J.B., Tempe, AZ 85285-4021

Angelo says — Thanks for your offer to write but we don't carry fiction. Tried it and it didn't work for us. Our readers like how-tos, reviews and pictures, pictures. Thanks for sending us your photos. We'll get them into a future issue. But I can see why they love you in Leg Show.

JoAnn says — We may revisit the fiction idea in future issues, but really good fiction is very hard to find; most tg fiction is gowdowful.



Mirror Mirror



▲ JoAnn Roberts our publisher.



▲ Nancy, Fla. FWD3200



▲ Jackie, NH FWD3392



◀ Elaine, Ind. FWD2787

▼ Stephanie, Texas FWD3196



◀ Daphne, Mich. FWD2549



▲ Tiffany, Va. FWD2281



More Hot New Styles from *Affordable Fantasies & Illusions*

CHECK OUT THE SPECTACULAR SAVINGS BELOW! We at Affordable Fantasies & Illusions, have created a FANTASTIC clothing line, especially made to fit crossdressers perfectly (Slimmer hips, Longer arms, Wider shoulders, higher necklines, and longer garment lengths). We used TV models to create our clothing line. You will be pleasantly surprised when you receive your garment because it will fit you well. We are leaving a two inch hem in the sleeves and the hemlines so our tall customers can let the hem down. These are some of our new fall pieces and we will be adding more pieces in the spring. Our clothing is offered from chest size: 36 - 50 and waist size: 26 - 44 unless indicated. Order our catalog to see our full clothing line and full line of products including wigs, TV Videos, more breastforms, heels, stocking, lingerie, cosmetics, corsets, adult novelties and much more (*catalog cost only \$4.00*).

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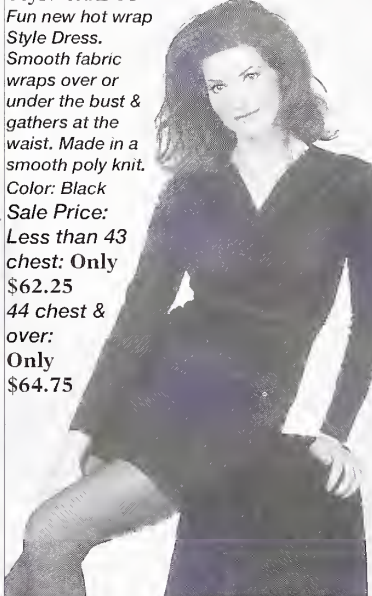
Dress

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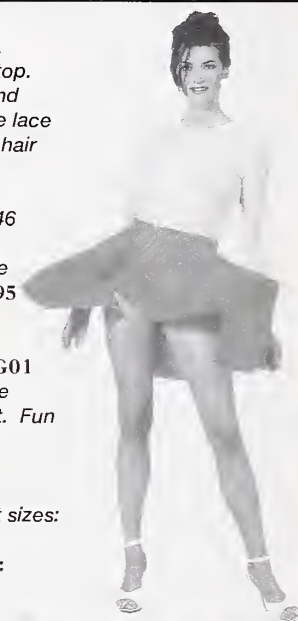
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The Queens of Shampoo

Photos by Randy & Angela



▲ Jena Van GoGo



Cianna

Right down the road from LadyLike world headquarters is Shampoo, one of the hottest spots for TG ladies on the East Coast (outside of New York, New York). It's the perfect spot for a wash and set, girls. The club is a converted warehouse with multiple party rooms and a special space for us called Mascara. Friday nights are devoted to a wild, young, multi-gendered, gay, straight, TG, party crowd. The Friday night party is called Shaft, but on any

given Friday night a queen won't get shafted (unless she's looking for that) by heading over to Shampoo.

The recommended attire is club chic and anything goes, as long as you can work it girl.

We stopped in at Shampoo twice to bring you photos of the ladies who work there and the gals who stop by for a cocktail and some fun.

First, a few months ago, LL was there to catch drag actor Alexis Arquette at the club. Then, just to get a little more ambience, we stopped back a few weeks ago and got some more fab photos of the Queens of Shampoo. Enjoy!

Shampoo
Willow Street
(between 7th & 8th Street above Callowhill)
Philadelphia, PA
(215) 922-7500



The Queens of *Shampoo*



(l to r) Jena Van GoGo, Angela Gardner, FeFe, Victoria Hart



▲ Alexis Arquette struts her stuff.



▲ Zee one and only FeFe, hostess with the mostest at Shampoo!



▲ Lea Diva



▲ Natasha, one of the bartenders. Hot!



▼ She's called DQRobert. Go figger!

▼ Ginger Snap ►



▼ More of the outrageous FeFe



The Origins of Roxanne Van Ness

A True Story

My initial capitulation to crossdressing occurred around 1959-1960, when I was 12 or 13. I have absolutely *no clue* as to how or why the process started. None of the so called “classic” contributing factors applied. Not a weak willed father. (On the contrary, Dad and I did tons of terrific “guy” things together!) As a child, I was never forced to wear girls’ clothing. There was no undue negative influence from transvestites, etc., etc., etc. Nevertheless, I would be plagued by the phenomenon for the next seven and a half years, until early 1968.

This turned out to be a pivotal juncture in my young life. “Pivotal” because it’s when I got caught—by my parents! Although any escapades had been limited to slipping on my mother’s underwear and stockings (sans wig and shoes, alas), and only when left home alone, I did take the occasional crude snapshot. It was their discovery of a batch of these photographs (strewn across my chest as I dozed) that led to my gender bending demise.

The adverse reactions, particularly Mom’s, caused me to regret all covert activities and promise not to so indulge again. (This was the one and only instance where she didn’t offer her full support.) I remained true to my word for the ensuing 20 years! In fact, I not only kept my distance from ladies’ wear (unless it already contained a lady), but felt no temptation whatsoever to revert to my old ways! The about-face seemed nothing short of miraculous (if I may be so bold as to employ the hyperbolic)!

Still, as the 1980s rolled to a close, something bizarre happened. I abruptly began fantasizing about being kidnapped and forcibly dressed/made up as a woman! (How many countless others have gone through the exact, same experience?) The picture grew so constant and overpowering that I felt compelled to jot down the details, lest I go without sleep for the rest of my life! However, once the information had found its way onto paper, I suffered a twinge of remorse and tore up the account, a modest 8 pages worth. Big mistake! No sooner had the short story been discarded than the mental images resurfaced — with a vengeance! My stomach churned. I’d lost my appetite. I lay awake for hours every night. What was I to do?

The first item on the agenda was to rewrite those infamous 8 pages. The problem was that the original “brief account” would explode into a play rivaling a novel, in both length and complexity! And the plot (pun intended)

thickened. Whenever I enjoyed the good fortune of encountering an attractive woman, a common occurrence in a metropolis, I found myself no longer drawn to her for the standard masculine reasons. Nope! Now I viewed females in an altogether different light, yearning to look, dress, and act like them! Well, it wasn’t long before I went back to trying on feminine attire — just to gauge my hormonal and/or psychological reaction — mind you. Surprisingly, I sensed neither, but, regardless, I couldn’t stop myself! An all-consuming desire gnawed at my psyche — ever increasing! Soon I resumed shaving strategic parts of my body. (For all intent and purposes, it was the 1960s all over again!) In December of 1989, I purchased items of women’s apparel for the very first time; high heels, pantyhose, lingerie. (Apparently, many of our sort work from the bottom up.) My inaugural, bona fide outfit followed shortly thereafter.

Finally, I surrendered. On February 10, 1990, “Roxanne Van Ness,” a name borrowed from said unfinished play, was born! (And, this time, I made certain no one found out!)

The rest, as they say, is history (Her story? Whatever!)

Roxanne Van Ness (Fer Shur!)

The photo below was taken on February 10, 1990. To see what Roxanne looks like today, go to page 28.





Kelly Tyler, 110 Melissa St
Lafayette LA 70501-4008

Regina Holcomb, PO Box
441 Alworth, GA 30101-0441



Mary Frank, PO Box 352,
Buffalo NY 14231 ▼



T.H., PO Box 17343,
Seattle WA 98107 ▼



Jill, PO Box 2553, Menlo Park CA 94025 ▼



Beverly Ann Fota, PO Box 94,
Lost Creek PA 17946 ▼



Patris, PO Box 4202,
Mankato MN 56002 ▼



J.O.Merch, PO Box 2672,
Austin TX 78768 ▼



Mirror Mirror



▲ Gracia, Calif. FWD2992



▲ Arlene, Boston FWD3775

◀ Cena, New York FWD2710

▶ Adrian, Colo.,
adrian@tgforum.com



◀ Melissa, SE Pa., FWED1196
melissafcd@aol.com

▼ rainlane@aol.com



▼ Wendy, NY
FWD3374



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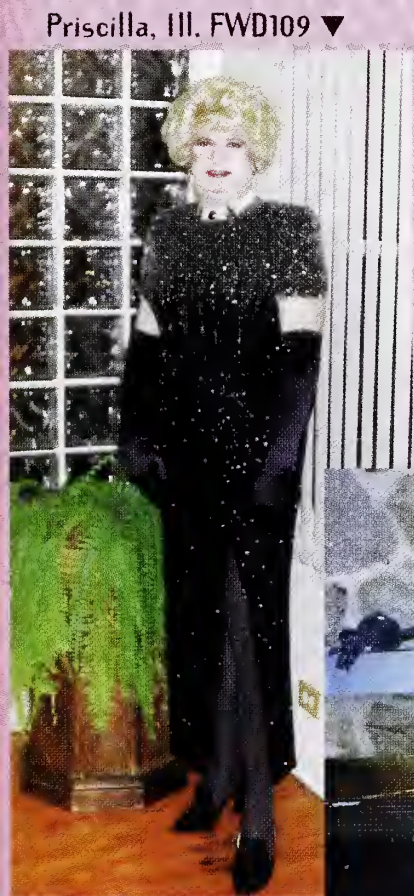


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Jeri Jones, PO Box 9215
Salt Lake City UT 84109 ▼



▲ Laura Covington, PO Box 10431,
Oakland CA 94610



Priscilla, Ill. FWD109 ▼



▲ Gina Martine, PO Box 71604
Los Angeles CA 90071



► Micheline Montreuil
1050 Orleans
Charlesbourg, Quebec
Canada G1H 2H2



◀ D.C.
2440 Provident Rd
Northbridge MA
01534

Where Does It All End?

A new series of thought provoking articles by Brenda Lawrence starts this issue with a topic that has crossed the mind of most every crossdresser - dating.

All my adult life I've always considered myself to be a happily married, heterosexual crossdresser. I was so straight that I found myself uncomfortable around other crossdressers at support group meetings, and I stopped attending them. Yet, this past September on a picture-perfect Friday evening, I was escorted across a restaurant parking lot arm in arm with a man who I had only physically met 2 hours earlier. After dinner, we were to return to his motel room and you can let your imagination guess what might happen there. As I listened to my 3-inch heels clicking on the pavement, I began to worry where my CD desires were taking me.

Like most of us, I have wanted to be a girl/woman all my life, or at least dress like one. All my early attempts at achieving a passable feminine look and shape were failures until a little over 4 years ago, when I took the "bull by the horns" and decided to get my act together. I have to admit that the results you see today even shocked me. What is so worrisome, though, is the intense desire I feel to take things further and further.

I wonder how many of my sisters out there are going, or have gone, through the same stage of development only to eventually find themselves on the surgeon's operating table for that final step to womanhood. Then, to later realize that SRS was totally wrong for them. I read about it often, yet I find myself fantasizing about that very same surgery. Is this just part of the whole CD schtick, or am I heading down that path of no return?

At the beginning of this year, I stopped crossdressing and going out. I was enjoying it far too much and I was using any excuse to toss on a skirt and go out in public. To spend nearly 2 hours getting ready to mail a letter in a different town miles away, or drive to the drug store to replace the makeup I'd just used to get ready were some of the weaker excuses I made for dressing. I was even toying with the idea of living full time, though I had no

idea how I'd pull this off, what with a wonderful family and two businesses to run. Who thinks about details when they are having such a wonderful time?

I lasted 8 months, but we all know that the desire to dress never goes away. During that time I sorted out all my issues and know that I'll never go full time, but a new idea had popped into my head and I couldn't shake it. I suddenly had this desire to go on a date with a guy. I wanted to take myself to the next level in femininity. I had made myself passable, then very passable judging from the volume of mail I get each week. I routinely use women's dressing rooms and restrooms, so that is no longer a challenge. I've gotten over the thrill of being addressed as Miss or Ma'am and having guys hold doors for me. No, what I needed now was to go on a date with a guy and be treated like a woman, but without any of the sexual stuff that usually follows a date.

I'll be the first to admit that a good part of this desire to seek the next level of femininity is the female hormones I've been on for over 3 years. While they are a very low dose and not enough to cause physical changes, never mind my 28" waist and feminine tummy, I know they are affecting my thinking. I'd love to stop taking them, and have in the past for a few weeks, but I feel so good on them and have far more energy. I had a bad reaction to heavier doses, thank goodness, or I'm sure I'd be sporting a nice set of boobies by now and looking up surgeon's SRS schedules. These things are dangerous and you don't mess with them without a doctor's supervision.

Even though we all read story after story about transsexuals who are not accepted by family and friends, who are fired from job after job, whose life becomes a living hell after the surgery — some even return to living as men again in order to survive — so many of us yearn for that day when we can live and love as women. I wish I knew why this was, as no one seems to have a clue. I see what my accepting wife goes through every day and I **know** I could never do

it. But it does not stop me from thinking about it.

Well, the opportunity presented itself to date a guy, and I did it! It was with another CD from out of state who I had been corresponding with for some time. He was to visit his daughter in my area and we decided to meet, as guys. Then, because that same weekend offered a local Tri-Ess get-together, we expanded our initial plan. I would live completely as a woman for 3 days and he would take me on a dinner date Friday evening, shopping on Saturday, and we would attend the Tri-Ess event Saturday night. Sunday we would again go out as guy and gal and do whatever. I'd never dressed more than 10 hours at a crack, but everything went off as planned.

Did I like it? **You bet!** It was without a doubt one of the most pleasurable experiences a CD could have. I learned a lot about myself that weekend. I'm now ok around other CDs at gatherings, and I actually had a good time at the meeting. I found by the third day of dressing that I'd had enough. I wanted to go back to my guysself again, so definitely no full-time living in my future.

Now, I know you're all dying to read the next sentence, but no, nothing happened when we were alone in his room. My date was a perfect gentleman, for which I can't thank him enough. Even though he presented me with a beautiful necklace prior to our date, I just couldn't take things any farther than a hug (and that was at the very end of the weekend).

But I wonder how long that will last. I'm starting to wonder, "Where does it all end?"



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▲ JoAnn Worth, PO Box 1776
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▲ Heather, PO Box 1504
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▲ Michelle, PO Box 614,
Newark CA 94560

Resources

North American Support Groups

National US Membership Organizations

International Foundation for Gender Education. PO Box 540229, Waltham, MA 02454. Publishes Transgender Tapestry (\$40/year subscription). Reprints and books on TV/TS subjects, other info. Hosts annual conference in different locations around the country. Phone: 617-899-2212. <ifge@ifge.org><www.ifge.org>

Renaissance Education Association, Inc., 987 Old Eagle School Rd., Suite 719, Wayne, Pa. 19087. 610-975-9119 24 hr. answering machine, but phones are answered personally on Monday and Thursday evenings. Membership fee of \$40 includes a 24-page monthly publication *Transgender Community News*. Also publishes Background Papers and Community Outreach Bulletins on transgender issues for personal and professional use. Speakers available for classroom, corporate, or media discussions of transgender issues. Renaissance currently has four chapters and seven affiliates. Affiliates are noted with “(!)” in the list below. Renaissance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit membership organization. <angela@ren.org> <www.ren.org>

Society for the Second Self (SSS), Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275. Focused on families and relationships. Tri-Ess publishes the *Femme Mirror* quarterly and hosts an annual convention. Tri-Ess chapters are marked with “#” in the list below. Tri-Ess is a non-profit membership organization. <jeftris@aol.com> <www.firstneithou.com/brenda>

Alaska

Alaska T People, c/o Bobbie Wendy Tucey, PO Box 670349, Chugiak, AK 99567

Alabama

Alpha-Zeta (#), PO Box 1738, Tempe, AZ 85280
A Rose, PO Box 8108, Glendale, AZ 85280-8108
Tau Upsilon(#), 8802 E. Broadway Blvd. #145, Tucson, AZ 85710

California

Alpha Chapter(#), PO Box 36091, Los Angeles, CA 90036
Androgyny, PO Box 480740, Los Angeles, CA 90048
Born Free, PO Box 52829, Riverside, CA 92517
CHIC, PO Box 8487, Long Beach, CA 90808
Diablo Valley Girls, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885
Gender Expressions, PO Box 816, Lakewood, CA 90714-0816
Ladies Knight Out, PO Box 19608-179, Irvine, CA 92713
Neutral Corner, PO Box 19008, San Diego, CA 92159
Powder Puffs of California, PO Box 1088, Yorba Linda, CA 92886

Rainbow Gender Association, PO Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170-0730

Sacramento Gender Assoc., PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456

Sigma Sigma Beta, Tri-Ess, PO Box 19933, So. Lake Tahoe, CA 96151

TGSF, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142

Thursday Irregulars, c/o Joan Sheldon, PO Box 6541, San Jose, CA 95150-6541

Tri Chi (#), PO Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275

Colorado

Delta (#) PO Box 16208, Denver, CO 80216-6208

Gender Identity Center of Colorado, Inc., 1455 - Ammons St., Suite 100, Lakewood, CO 80215-4993

Pueblo TV/TS Support Group, 1144 Clamont, Pueblo, CO 81004-2808

Connecticut

Connecticut Outreach Society, PO Box 163, Farmington, CT 06034

connecticutView, PO Box 2281, Devon, CT 06460

Twenty (XX) Club Inc., PO Box 387, Hartford, CT 06141-0387

District of Columbia

Washington-Baltimore Alliance, PO Box 50724, Washington, D.C. 20091-0724

Delaware

Renaissance (!), Delaware Chapter, PO Box 5656, Wilmington DE 19808

Florida

Animas, PO Box 420309, Miami FL 33242

Gamma Chi Beta (#), PO Box 510045, Punta Gorda, FL 33951-0045

Mu Beta Gamma (#), PO Box 4126, Hialeah, FL 33014

North Florida Sisters (NFS), PO Box 5765, Jacksonville, FL 32247

Phi Epsilon Mu (#), PO Box 3261, Winter Park FL 32790-3261

Tau Lambda (#), PO Box 3426, Tallahassee, FL 32315-3426

The Ladies Club of Florida (TLC), P.O. Box 372711, Satellite Beach, FL 32937

Trans Alliance of Gainesville, PO Box 143102, Gainesville, FL 32614-3102

Georgia

Sigma Epsilon (#), PO Box 272, Rosewell, GA 30077-0272

AGE(!), PO Box 267, Powder Springs, GA 30127

Hawaii

Hawaii Transgender Outreach, PO Box 4530, Honolulu, HI 96812

Iowa

Central Illinois Gender Assoc., PO Box 1925, Clinton, IA 52733-1925

Iowa Artistry, PO Box 75, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

River City Gender Alliance, PO Box 680, Council Bluffs, IA 51502-0680

Idaho

Idaho Transgender Society, PO Box 7353, Boise, ID 83707-1353

Illinois

Chi (#), PO Box 40, Wood Dale, IL 60191-0040

Chicago Gender Society (!), PO Box 578005, Chicago, IL 60657

Indiana

IXE, PO Box 20710, Indianapolis IN 46250

Transgender Outreach of N. Indiana, Ltd., PO Box 2372, Portage, IN 46368

Kansas

KCCAF (Kansas City Crossdressers & Friends), PO Box 4092, Overland Park, KS 66204

Wichita Transgender Alliance, PO Box 3002, Wichita, KS 67201-3002

Kentucky

BlueGrass Belles, PO Box 20173, Louisville, KY 40250

Louisiana

Gulf Gender Alliance (!), (a Renaissance Chapter) PO Box 56836, New Orleans, LA 70156-6836

Massachusetts

Sunshine Club, PO Box 564, Hadley, MA 01035

TG Support, 36 Alpine Rd, Wayland, MA 01778

Tiffany Club of New England, Inc., PO Box 71, Waltham MA 02454-0071

Maryland

The Bridge Club, c/o Michelle Gerald, PO Box 11737, Baltimore, MD 21206-0337

Tri-State Transgendered Club, c/o Diane Terrant, PO Box 1994, Silver Spring, MD 21550-1002

Maine

Maine Gender Resource & Support, c/o Jean Churchill, PO Box 1894, Bangor, ME 04402-1894

Transsupport, PO Box 17622, Portland, ME 04101

Michigan

Crossroads, PO Box 1245, Royal Oak, MI 48068

Friends North, Inc., PO Box 562, Traverse City, MI 49685-0562

IME of Western Michigan, PO Box 1153, Grand Rapids, MI 49501

Minnesota

Beta Gamma (#), PO Box 8591, Minn., MN 55408

City of Lakes Crossgender Community, PO Box 16265, Minneapolis MN 55416

Minnesota Freedom of Gender Expression, PO Box 17945, St. Paul, MN 55117

Missouri

St. Louis Gender Foundation, PO Box 9433, St. Louis, MO 63117

Mississippi

Beta Chi (#), PO Box 31253, Jackson, MS 39286

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Carolina Transensual Alliance (CTA), 4037 E Independence Blvd, Suite 111, Charlotte, NC 28205

Kappa Beta, Tri-Ess, PO Box 12101, Charlotte, NC 28220-2101

Phoenix Transgender Support, PO Box 18332, Asheville, NC 28814

Sigma Rho Delta (#), PO Box 61406, Raleigh, NC 27661

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Nebraska

River City Gender Alliance, PO Box 8076, Omaha, NE 68108-0076

Nevada

Equinox, 8175 S Virginia, Suite 850-256, Reno, NV 89511-8981

Transgender Support Las Vegas, Community Counseling Center, 1120 Almond Tree Lane, Las Vegas, NV

New Jersey

Chi Delta Mu (#), PO Box 1, River Edge, NJ 07661-0001

Monmouth Ocean Transgender (!), (a Renaissance Chapter), PO Box 2972, Princeton, NJ 08543-2972

NJ Support, PO Box 0034, Montville, NJ 07045

Sigma Nu Rho (#), 1092 St. Georges Ave., Suite 234, Rahway, NJ 07065-2664

New Mexico

Phi (Fiesta!)(#), 8200 Montgomery NE, #241, Albuquerque, NM 87109

New York

Buffalo Belles, PO Box 1701, Amherst, NY 14226

CD•Network, PO Box 92055, Rochester, NY 14692

Lambda Chi Lambda (#), PO Box 1010,

Cooperstown, NY 13326

continued on next page

Metropolitan Gender Network, 561 Hudson St., Box 45, New York, NY 10014
TGIC, PO Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212-3604
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Ohio

Alpha Omega (#), PO Box 2053, Sheffield Lake, OH 44054-0053
Crossport, PO Box 1692, Cincinnati, OH 45204
Crystal Club, PO Box 287, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
Paradise Club, PO Box 29564, Cleveland, OH 44129

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Intermountain Transgender Outreach, 1524 Monroe Ave., La Grande, OR 97850
North West Gender Alliance, PO Box 4928, Portland, OR 97208
Rho Gamma (#), PO Box 5551, Grants Pass, OR 97527
Trans-Port, P.O. Box 66913, Portland, OR 97290

Pennsylvania

Erie Sisters, 1903 West 8th St #261, Erie, PA 16505
Renaissance(!), Greater Philadelphia, 987 Old Eagle School Road, Suite 719, Wayne, PA 19087
Renaissance(!), Lower Susquehanna Valley, PO Box

2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2122
Transpitt, PO Box 3214, Pittsburgh, PA 15230

Tennessee

Memphis TransGender Alliance, PO Box 11232, Memphis, TN 38111-0232
Tennessee Vals, PO Box 92335, Nashville, TN 37209

Texas

Alpha Tau (#), PO Box 2753, Cedar Park, TX 78630-2753
Central Texas Transgender Society, PO Box 195, Spicewood, TX 78669
Epsilon Tau (#), PO Box 945, New Waverly, TX 77358
Gulf Coast Transgender Community, PO Box 90335, Houston, TX 77090
Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous, 6804 E Hiway 6 S #334, Houston, TX 77083
Metroplex CD Club, PO Box 141924, Irving, TX 75014-1924
Nu Epsilon Tau (#), PO Box 14096, Pantego, TX 76094
Spouses & Partners International Conference for Education (SPICE), Peggy Rudd, c/o 8880 Bellaire B2 #104, Houston, TX 77036
West Texas Gender Alliance, c/o Tami Maloney, 5350 Llano St., Abilene, TX 79605

Utah

An Engendered Species, PO box 11897, Salt Lake City, UT 84147
Western Transsexuals Support Network, 4667 Holladay Blvd. #2, Salt Lake City, UT 84117

Virginia

Chi Epsilon Sigma (#) c/o PO Box 382, Norge, VA 2317-0382
Ladies First, 7138 Little River Turnpike, Ste 1820, Annandale, VA 22003
Trans-Gender Education Association, PO Box 16036, Arlington, VA 22215

Washington

Bellingham Gender Group, 304 W. Champion, Bellingham, WA 98225
Emerald City, PO Box 31318, Seattle, WA 98103
Ingersoll Gender Center, 1812 E. Madison, Suite 106, Seattle, WA 98122-2843

Wisconsin

Gemini Gender Group, P.O. Box 44211, Milwaukee WI 53214

West Virginia

Trans-West Virginia, PO Box 2322, Huntington, WV 25724

Canada

Alberta

Phi Sigma#, PO Box 81115, 755 Lake Bonavista Dr SE, Calgary, T2J 7C9.
Illusions Club (peer support & info), PO Box 2000, Calgary, T2C 1B4. Phone: +1 (403) 236-7072.
Serenity, Box 81115, 755 Lake Bonavista Dr SE, Calgary, Alberta T2J 7C9

British Columbia

Corbary Society, PO Box 3745, Vancouver, V6B 3Z1. Phone: 604-415-2767.
Zenith Foundation, 8415 Granville Street, PO Box 46, Vancouver, V6P 4Z9.

Ontario

Gender Metaphor, 829 Northwest Road, Suite 715, Kingston, Ontario K7P-2N3.
Gender Mosaic, PO Box 7421, Ottawa, K1L 8E4. Phone: +1 (819) 770-1945
Xpressions, P.O. Box 223, Station A, Toronto, M5W 1B2. Voice mail: +1 (416) 812-6879.

Quebec

Club MET, 4113 Dorion St., Montreal, H2K 3B8. Phone: +1 (514) 528-8874
FACT - Quebec, PO Box 293, 5858 Cote-de-Neiges Boulevard, Montreal, H3S 2S6.

Community Calendar

January 2000

20 - 23, First Event hosted by the Tiffany Club of New England, Inc. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Woburn, Massachusetts. Contact: Telephone: 781-891-9325, (answered live Tuesdays 7-10 PM), or by e-mail at <firstevent99@tcne.org>.

Feb. 2000

8 - 20, Midwest Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, and Transgender College Conference 2000, St. Cloud State University, Saint Cloud, Minn. Check their web site at <www.stcloudstate.edu/~mbglgtcc/>.

March 2000

22 - 26, **Transgender 2000**, the 14th annual IFGE convention at the Hilton Crystal City, Arlington, VA. For info contact Cioe Enterprises, PO Box 61, Easton, PA 18044-0061, 610-759-1761.

April 2000

27 - 30, **Tenth Anniversary California Dreamin'**, Golden Gateway Holiday Inn in San Francisco at 1500 Van Ness Avenue. Detailed information can be obtained by writing: PPOC/California Dreamin', PO Box 1088, Yorba Linda, CA 92885, calling (714) 281-0271.

May 2000

4 - 7, **Fourth International Congress on Sex & Gender**, in Philadelphia, Pa., at the Warwick Hotel, sponsored by the Renaissance Transgender Assoc., Inc. Call Renaissance at 610-975-9119 for registration details or visit their web site at <www.ren.org>. Call the Warwick at 800-523-4210, 215-735-6000 or fax to 215-790-7766 for reservations.

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FREE CATALOG

Chez Madame Arthur

By Ms Bob Davis & Carol Kleinmaier

They say it was wonderful to be in Paris after the war. Which war? Does it matter? It's always wonderful to be in Pareé. But according to transsexual model and performer April Ashley, it was especially wonderful about fifty years ago after "the Big One," World War II. "In the 1960's it was in London; in the 1970's it moved to New York; but in the 1950's 'it' was in Paris – you smelt it in the streets, you saw it in the faces in the cafés, you trod in it the moment you went out of the door; a feeling that to be elsewhere was to be in Siberia."

In the Paris of the 1950's you could have a drink (or many drinks) with Hemmingway or an *apéritif* with Simone de Beauvoir. Edith Piaf preferred the South of France, but she still sang in Paris on occasion. There were beatniks, dressed in black, on the Left Bank. Ginsberg, Burrows, Kerouac and Rod McKuen had or would pass through. Stephane Grappelli played his hot violin at *Club St Germain*. And Jean-Paul Sartre in a dingy overcoat was having lunch at *Brasserie Lipp*, between the *Louvre* and the *Hôtel des Invalides*. "I never saw Sartre wear anything other than this overcoat" catted April.

In 1945 Marcel Wuysmann opened one of France's most famous female impersonation clubs, "Chez Madame Arthur" at 75 bis, Rue des Martyrs. Three years later he opened the other, Le Carrousel. Roger Baker in *Drag, A History of Female Impersonation on the Stage*, says, "The two famous drag cabarets in Paris, Chez Madame Arthur and Le Carrousel, represent the height of ambition for many young impersonators who are fascinated by the glamour of the shows and their performers." April tells it slightly differently, "His (Marcel's) wife owned Madame Arthur's, Le Carrousel's poor relation in Pigalle specialising (sic) in grotesques." As a young *travesti* April worked at Le Carrousel, by the by.

Monsieur Marcel is described as a dark, stocky man, not too tall. April compares him to Edward G. Robinson "at his most tongue-in-cheekily pugnacious." Marcel was possibly a French Algerian. According to an interview in a soft-core porn magazine, he owned a successful restaurant before the war. "I got into the female impersonation business by a fluke... A customer from my



restaurant, a Russian dancer, came to me with the suggestion to open a dance hall where men could openly dance with men...We were an instant sensation. I used to organize competition for the best-dressed drag queen... Entrants used to come from every corner of the world – from Canada and the U.S. and South America." This unnamed club was closed by the war.

According to this interview getting rich from the gay and tranny communities doesn't necessarily make M. Marcel very understanding. "After being in the business for more than 30 years, I still have no tolerance for sexual deviation. Just a kiss from a man would disgust me, and none of my stars have ever tried it." With such dubious sources it is always difficult to tell when they are reporting the facts and when they are creating quotes to give the readers what they want to hear. But the magazine's low opinion of female impersonation and crossdressing is very clear when they discuss SRS in an indirect quote attributed to M. Marcel: "The club owner says that this operation helps them (the performers) to feel less like a queer and more like a woman."

The most famous female impersonator of the



era was Coccinelle, who had the blond tresses and pouting lips of Marilyn Monroe. Though several sources associate her with Le Carrousel, in her "as told to" autobiography she says she started at Madame Arthur's in Pigalle, a section of Paris often mentioned in connection with prostitutes. "Irma la Duce," the Broadway musical and Hollywood film about the playful prostitute with the heart of gold is set in Pigalle. And the Pigalle prostitutes played an important part in Coccinelle's development. One day after finishing his job as a switchboard operator the 18-year-old boy, Jacques Dufresnoy, who would become Coccinelle, was whisked off the street by five prostitutes and into a hotel room. He feared he would be raped, but they said, "Do not worry, young fellow. We want to have our Mardi Gras just like everyone else...You don't object, I hope, to letting us dress you up?...Ooh, isn't he sweet! With those green eyes, tiny nose, wasp waist and small feet, there is only one way to dress him!...As a woman, of course!" And so Coccinelle was born. But it was M. Marcel who gave her that name, which means "ladybug" in American and "ladybird" in English.

The performers at Madame Arthur's and Le Carrousel

divide into two groups: the glamorous performers, who all seem to have taken advantage of the latest breakthroughs in hormone therapy and cosmetic surgery, and the comic performers, who are often older. In the interview, M. Marcel says that impersonators work "up to the age of 40...and then enter some other profession such as hair-dressing or owning a restaurant." How stereotypical. One exception is Maslowa, the emcee, who was born around the turn of the century, the 20th century, that is, and was 62 at the time M. Marcel was interviewed. Maslowa performed at the club in a variety of characters, sometimes calling his creation Maxime and sometimes Loulou. There's another program from Madame Arthur's where the drawing on the cover looks remarkably like one of the comic characters of the sharp-nosed Maslowa. Perhaps Maslowa was Madame Arthur?

It is interesting to note that at this time every performer also had a photo out of drag appear in the program beside their fabulous femme image. Sophie's boy photo with its tears, wrinkles and holes looks like it was ripped from her hands by force. M. Marcel remembers a time when, "Because of police regulations, all impersonators had to appear on stage in men's clothing following their performances." This is much more stringent than the Jewel Box Revue here in America, where the performers would remove their wigs at the end of the show. And in an era





when cabarets did several shows a night, appearing in men's clothes must have been a royal pain in the neck. Did they have to remove their make-up as well?

Was this police regulation a way of assuring the performers would leave the club dressed as men? But what if the performers didn't consider themselves men? Is biology destiny? Coccinelle recalls her first night at the club. The evening after her audition she arrived at the club at about 9. M. Marcel introduced her to her fellow performers. "Everyone welcomed me warmly and I felt happy to be with them. There was just one difference. The other *travestis*, being men, were dressed as men since they had not yet gotten into their feminine costumes. As for myself, I was already dressed as a female. This attracted a great deal of attention. They all congratulated me upon such a successful transformation. There were several who even doubted that I was, physically speaking, a male. It flattered me."

Most of the photos with this article are performers of the glamour variety. Unfortunately, there's very little about Carmen with her astounding layers of eyelashes; Sophie Sonali, whose skin tone changes so markedly below her pearl necklace or the bubble-haired, long legged Sylvia. These curvaceous performers were not mentioned in the usual sources. We could only find one small note about Jan Carlove, who's literally falling out of her gown. F. Michael

Moore in Drag! Male and Female Impersonators on Stage, Screen and Television says, "Le Carrousel exhibited the talents of such female impersonators as...Jan Carlove..." But, since we had the program, we already knew that.

The use of hormones by female impersonators was controversial in the 1950's and 1960's. There was a feeling among performers and purists that, somehow, chemical or surgical enhancement shouldn't be allowed on stage. Roger Baker looked down his very English nose at it and decried that, "Many of the artists who appear in these shows (on the European continent) are known to be transvestites and trans-sexualists (sic) and all worlds seem to merge into a confusing no-man's land." And in referring to the use of hormones by Madame Arthur's, Le Carrousel performers in particular he says that, "No doubt the floorshows are lively and chic, but they seem to have little relevance to female impersonation as considered here. So far, this country has avoided such clubs and cabarets; not merely because the law would step in, but because the Puritan heart of England would not be interested. Illusion, not an uneasy reality, is the important thing."



FLASH BACK, however, likes having it both ways. We'll return to Paris for more of this uneasy combination of enhanced femininity and impersonation in a future issue, when we consider the famous Le Carrousel, home of Bambi, April Ashley, who performed as Toni April, and a host of other stars. **LL**



Ms BOB is seeking a copy of *Drag* (Queens Liberation Front) vol. 3, #9, 1973 and *Female Mimics* (Health Knowledge) #6, Aug, 1965. She can be contacted c/o *Lady Like* or at msbob@tgforum.com.

CAROL KLEINMAIER is a founding member of Transgendered Nation. For over a decade she has been an activist for both gender and AIDS issues.

If there is any subject or person you'd be interested having covered in FLASH BACK, *Lady Like*'s history column, please, let us know and we will try to oblige.

TV VIDEO REVIEWS



In the past few years there have been a number of films with transgender themes or actors playing a transgendered person. The Crying Game; Priscilla, Queen of the Desert; To Wong Foo..., and M. Butterfly are recent releases that have achieved same degree of acclaim.

Although there are many more transgender oriented films today, there have been a number of such films since the 1960s. Most were the efforts of independent film makers. Most were low budget and often had obvious technical and acting flaws. Almost all of them had minor and very brief theatrical exposure and quickly faded from sight.

Many of these half-forgotten films have recently been transferred to video tape and are available from video stores that specialize in cult and obscure cinema. This column will review some of the lesser known films. You may find, as I have, that most of these films are not only fun and entertaining to watch, but they also offer some interesting insights about one of our favorite subjects — crossdressing.

The Funeral Parade of Roses

The year was 1969. It was the year of Stonewall and the beginning of a new era in sexual and gender freedom in America. That same year a unique and unusual film was released. The film was about a very feminine gay boy who lived as a woman and worked in a drag bar. The film also revealed much about gay lifestyles in a large metropolitan community. It openly depicted gay love, nudity, drag queens and drug usage. With only a few exceptions, the girls in the film were boys who were drag performers.

Was this some underground pornographic film by a producer/director like an Irving Klaw? No, it was a low budget, mainstream film. It portrayed gay life in one of the world's largest cities, Tokyo, Japan. The film was regarded as experimental in the style similar to a Jean Cocteau or Ingmar Bergman.

That *Funeral Parade of Roses* was made in Japan in the late 60's is very surprising. After all, Japan was a place that was less tolerant of any different behavior compared to the US. In 1969, films like *Funeral Parade* would never have been made by a mainstream director, let alone be shown as a feature film in US theaters.

So how is this all possible in Japan 30 years ago? Here's the answer. Kaori Shoji, writing in the Japanese Times International on 3/10/99 said:

"There's this unofficial poll that everyone knows about, but no one talks about. According to the poll, 40 percent of Japanese males over 15 are gay. (Some claim the figure is even higher.) The reason no one talks about it is not because of any taboo, but because it's a statistic so taken for granted that discussion is redundant."

This was probably the ultimate "Don't ask, don't tell" policy. The late famous Japanese author and playwright, Yukio Mishima, said, "Being gay in Japan is no big deal."

Funeral Parade of Roses underscores that fact. It was written and directed by Toshio Matsumoto. He originally entered medical school with the goal of becoming a psychiatrist. His fascination with film and literature resulted in him changing his major and obtaining a degree in fine arts. Although he didn't become a psychiatrist, *Funeral Parade* was clearly influenced by Freudian theory. Matsumoto made his first film in 1959 and has made 17 films and written three books. Currently, he is a university professor.

The star of *Funeral Parade* is Peter, a gay crossdresser who worked as a "gay bar boy" in a drag bar. He was sixteen at the time the film was made. He has lived as a woman ever since becoming a "gay bar boy." Peter won the best singer award in Japan in 1969. He has appeared in



Movie Poster for Funeral. That's "Eddie/Peter".

numerous films and TV shows and is a very popular entertainer in Japan.

The film begins with a love scene between a handsome man and a beautiful young girl. The girl is "Eddie" played by Peter. Eddie is having an affair with Gouda, the owner of the June Club, a popular drag bar in Tokyo. Eddie is one of the rising young stars at the club.

Yoshio Tsuchiya, who is a popular supporting actor appearing in numerous Kurosawa's films (Ran 1985), plays Gouda. The love scene is quite revealing without being graphic and is done very tastefully. As Eddie and Gouda are dressing, Eddie says she wants to quit her job at the June Club. Gouda responds, "Be patient, I'll let Ruka go, then you'll be the Madam at the June Club." At the drag bars in Tokyo at that time, the coveted position was to become the Madam of a club. The Madam was the "queen." Ruka had that coveted position. In real life, Osamu Ogasawara, who plays Ruka, was drag bar madam. Like Peter, she too lived as a woman. (All of the gay bar boys in the film are just themselves and not professional actors.)

Gouda and Ruka were lovers, but Gouda has fallen in love with the beautiful Eddie, the club's newest star. It's a typical love triangle. Ruka is trying to hold on to her lover and her job. Eddie wants Ruka's job and Gouda for herself.

As the story unfolds, scenes of Tokyo gay life are presented. The film abruptly cuts from the story line to interview several gay bar boys, asking why they became gay bar boys. In another series of interruptions, Peter is

interviewed about the role of Eddie. He is asked why he likes dressing and living as a woman as well as other aspects of his life. Peter's responses are quite fascinating and revealing.

Other abrupt shifts from the story line take the viewer to drug parties. Several pot users are interviewed and questioned as to their reactions to the pot use. In still more shifts, protests against the government, war and nuclear weapons are thrown into the film's mix. Unfortunately, the result is to make it difficult for viewers to follow the film's story line.

Although Eddie is portrayed as a pretty, fun loving, feminine boy who loves being a girl, he is prone to fugue states which go back to his childhood. Eddie has a dark and terrifying secret.

Eddie's mother is a beautician. His father left when Eddie was an infant. A picture of Eddie as a young child with his mother and father are repeatedly shown in the flashback scenes. The face of the father is burned out with a cigarette. Mother and Eddie are not close. She laughs at him and makes fun of him. When he puts on her make-up she angrily slaps him about.

One night the mother and her boyfriend return home. As they are about to make love, a younger Eddie bursts into the room with a kitchen knife. Chasing the boyfriend, he stabs him. Covered with blood and full of rage, he turns on his mother and violently stabs her over and over.

The very young Eddie has become a murderer. How he manages to avoid going to a mental institution or prison is not made clear. But, now we know the dark secret.

Returning to the present time, Gouda has told Ruka that he no longer loves her and she will no longer be the madam of the June Club. Predictably, Ruka is devastated by Gouda's rejection and loss of her position at the club. She commits suicide. We see her body on a bed surrounded by roses. A rose is a symbol for being gay in Japan, and thus the film's title, Funeral Parade of Roses.

Eddie is jubilant at Ruka's death. She has obtained everything she set out to achieve. She is now the fairest queen of all — the madam of the June Club. She has Gouda to herself. Her past is forgotten.

In the final scene Eddie is taking a shower. Gouda is waiting for her and they soon will make love. As he pours himself a drink, he discovers the picture of Eddie as a child with his mother and the father with the face burned out.

The man with no face, Eddie's father, is none other than Gouda. Unbeknownst to Gouda, he has been in love with

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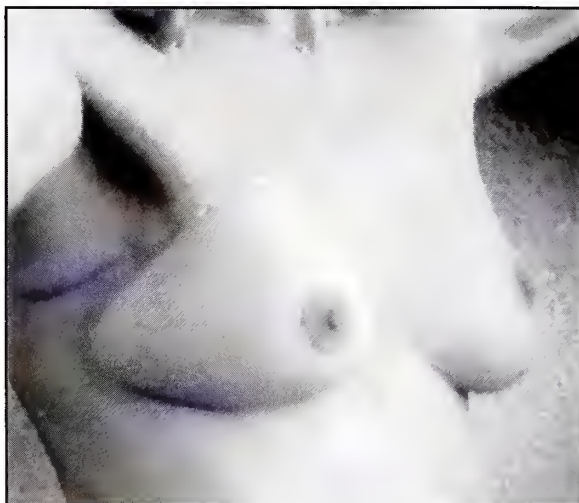
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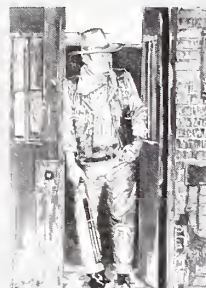
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Peter, star of *Funeral*

his son. Upset, disgusted and frightened, Gouda goes into the bathroom. Taking a dagger, he plunges it into his heart and dies while blood spatters all over the bathroom.

Hearing the commotion, Eddie opens the door and sees her lover dying. She also sees the photograph and has the same horrifying revelation. Her lover is her father. With this shocking recognition, she takes the dagger and plunges it into each eye. Now blinded and bleeding, she stumbles down to the street and stands dazed as on-lookers stare in disbelief.

Does this story sound familiar? Well it should. It is a convoluted version of the classic Greek tragedy Oedipus Rex. Oedipus kills his father and marries his mother. When the horrifying truth is revealed, he blinds himself. The tragedy of King Oedipus is the basis for Freud's theory of sexuality and one of the cornerstones of Psychoanalysis. *Funeral Parade* turns the Greek tale upside down. Eddie becomes the Queen who desires the father and blinds herself once she discovers the truth.


Matsumoto was also influenced by Jean Cocteau who made a surreal version of Orpheus, as well as by Freud. Matsumoto also had more than a passing interest in gay bar boys. The film was an attempt to present the Tokyo gay scene in an artistic manner using Greek mythology and Freud as a framework.

Unfortunately, Matsumoto was a bit too "artistic" in presenting a very interesting story about being transgendered in the 60's. The non-linear presentation of the film is confusing and distracting. The attempt to give the viewer a short sociological tour of 60's Tokyo just leaves us more confused.

Nevertheless, *Funeral Parade* is a fascinating film. Even more interesting is seeing a young Peter. You'll enjoy the scenes of Peter transforming himself from drab boy to a lovely young girl. So if you can get beyond the time shifts and "artistic" parts, I think you'll enjoy this unique film.

Funeral Parade is subtitled and in black and white. It runs 105 minutes and the video transfer is fairly good. It is available from Video Search of Miami, (888-279-9773). *Funeral Parade* was just re-released in Japan to commemorate Peter's 30th anniversary in film. So there is a chance this new release will soon be available here in the states.

A Message From Laurie Ann: Dear TVideo Review readers: This is my last regular review. Thanks to all of you who have read the column. Special thanks to all of you who gave me your thoughts about the column and suggested films to review. Most of all I want to thank JoAnn. She came up with the idea for the column and asked me to do it. Thanks JoAnn, its been lots of fun.

Keep reading Ladylike. It's the best TG publication anywhere. 



**An earlier photo of Peter
Go to page 41 to see a color photo**



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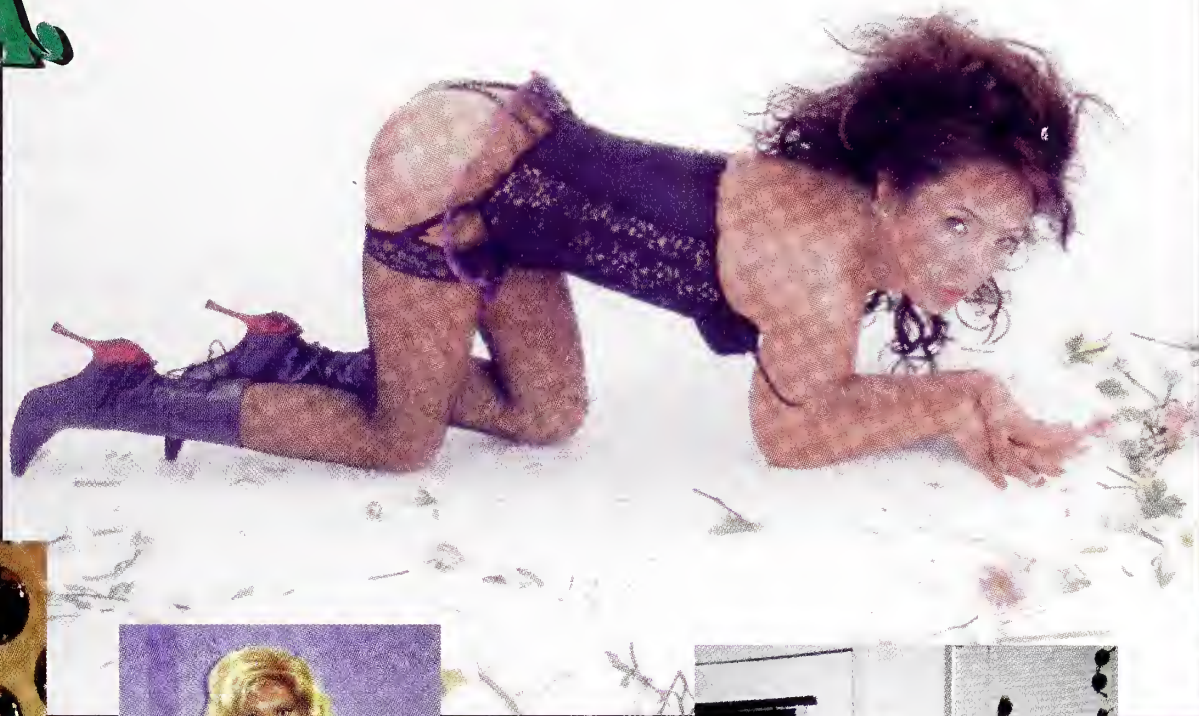
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Yep, that's Peter
from "Funeral
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NB CA 92658



▲ Daphne Jordan
PO Box 439
Syracuse NY 13206



◀ Bea Hicks,
PO Box 750,
Goldens Bridge
NY 10526



◀ Jayne Otto
Rt 1, Box 31-G1
Philomath OR
97370
otto@casco.net

So, You're Going On A Date?

By Marsha Lakey

You're what? Going on a date? Girl, are you sure you know what you're doing? Better yet, does *he* know what he's doing? Well, if your that serious then we better talk!

Really now, have you ever been out on a date? No. Well, have you ever wanted to? What, not even a little bit? Come on, Girl! Don't you just love to see yourself all pretty and feminine? I know, we all do. OK, close your eyes and see yourself just that way. Now stretch your imagination, and add a tall, dark, handsome fella by your side. Doesn't that make you look even prettier? Doesn't that make you feel all that more feminine?

What? Oh, I see the problem! You're not gay and the whole idea scares you, Well, wait a minute, I'm talking about going on a date, not getting into bed.

Whether you're gay or not, you've got to admit the image of yourself as the good looking babe hooked up with the "sharp dressed" man is exciting. And if your are one of us girls who just can't wait to slip on a dress and heels and step out into the real world, the idea of going out on a date has got to be even more of a thrill.

Now I am one of those girls, and I really love to get out shopping, eating, taking a trip to the salon, or a walk in the park, I love it all! I love to go out anytime and anyway, and three times I was lucky enough to be out with a guy. Once was with a friend who agreed to trade his dress for a suit, and be my escort to a very fancy, all dressed-up restaurant. We played our parts to the hilt, and had a ball! The other two times were with a guy with whom I corresponded. I was a little nervous, so we met in very public places. First was at a mall for lunch and shopping, and second in a park by a lake front art museum. He turned out to be a real sweetheart and made me feel more like a lady than I could have ever imagined.

Okay, I know some of you are thinking, yeah, yeah, yeah! Boring! Some babe goes on a date and wants to tell the world. Can't they find a better story to publish than this? Please, don't think badly of me. Who am I to write another "tell all" story? My dating experience pales in comparison to so many of my other sisters. I write only because I am a trained observer of human behav-

ior, and want to share my insights to all of you who are thinking about getting into the "dating game."

So, here is my scientifically compiled list of:

The Top Ten Things Not To Do On Your First Date:

- 10 Don't trot around behind the car and open your date's door.
- 9 Don't order hot wings and then wipe your mouth on the sleeve of your blouse.
- 8 Don't come to the door dressed like its amateur drag night at the local club.
- 7 Don't wear three inch spikes for a romantic walk on the beach.
- 6 Don't try to slow dance until you've practiced not leading.
- 5 Don't cozy up in a hot tub unless you've had all your pads waterproofed.
- 4 Don't wear that darling little black dress and pearls to a Jean Claude Van Dame movie.
- 3 Don't go on a wild roller coaster ride unless your wig is pinned down.
- 2 Don't forget how you're dressed and walk into the men's room with your date.
- 1 Don't go horseback riding wearing a gaff.

So, there you have it! All you need to know about dating in ten simple little lessons. Maybe you'll want to cut them out and have them laminated. Wouldn't it be great to have these in your purse along with your "best colors charts?" I bet you'd find them both very handy references.

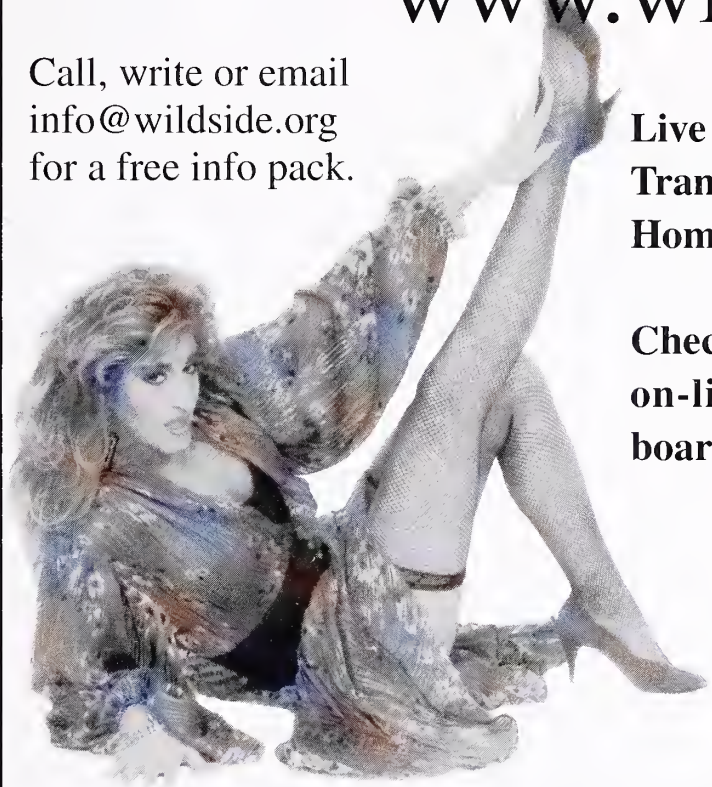
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Heather Moe, PO Box 6705
Aloha OR 97007

On My Mind...



Our community is growing and maturing every day. The latest signs of growth involve the creation of two new organizations with old purposes.

The first of these is the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition or NTAC.

The purpose of NTAC is to lobby for transgender rights. NTAC is a response to the failure of GenderPAC to adequately represent and address the issue of transgender rights in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). ENDA is a bill in Congress that is supported by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) the national gay and lesbian advocacy organization. HRC does NOT favor transgender inclusion in ENDA. GenderPAC rolled over on this one and acceded to HRC's desires.

In addition, GenderPAC announced at Southern Comfort this past October that it has filed for 501[c]3 status with the Feds. That action insures that GenderPAC will never be the lobbying organization it was originally designed to be (and, if anyone should know how GPAC was designed it'd be me because I wrote the By Laws.)

Well, for some people that was the right moment to step forward and start over with a transgender-only rights organization. The result is NTAC. As I write this in November, NTAC does not yet have a bank account or a mailing address, but it will by the time you read this. You should be able to find all the info you need at the NTAC web site <www.ntac.org>. Check it out.

The second new organization doesn't even have a name yet, but it's being built nonetheless. There is a group of people in our community who believe that the long term survival of the community requires the establishment of a financial fund that will benefit its most important institutions.

Now, before you go off about the Winslow Street Fund, let's look at that fund. First, it was established by the International Foundation for Gender Education (I love that name. It reminds of the Holy Roman Empire, which was neither Holy, nor Roman, nor an Empire. Just smoke and mirrors. But, I digress....) That's Strike One

against them. The Winslow Street Trustees, with one exception, all seem to be members of the IFGE board of directors, so there is a built-in bias.

Second, the Winslow Street Fund hasn't been very effective with its grants. For example, they give a grant to IFGE every year, even though donors were promised IFGE would not benefit from Winslow Street. Then, there was the "loan" fiasco. The bottom line is this: people simply don't trust the Winslow Street Trustees. One thing is pretty certain — if IFGE faces closing its doors, they will raid Winslow Street to keep them open.

Therefore, our community needs a foundation that is beyond the control of a single organization and which will make grants that will benefit all factions of the community, not just a specific group. And that's what a small group of financial and business people who also happen to be transgendered are about to do. I wish I had more details, but I don't... for now. By next issue, I should have all the details on how to make a contribution.

.....

So, didja notice the new price on the cover? I just couldn't hold the price down any longer. I went back and looked at our past issues and I was astounded to find that we had not raised our cover price in 6 years! Over that time, we've absorbed printing cost increases and several postal increases. The straw that broke this camel's back was a letter from my printer that costs for the year 2000 were going up 10%. Sorry kids, that gets passed onto you this time. Subscription rates are up slightly as well.

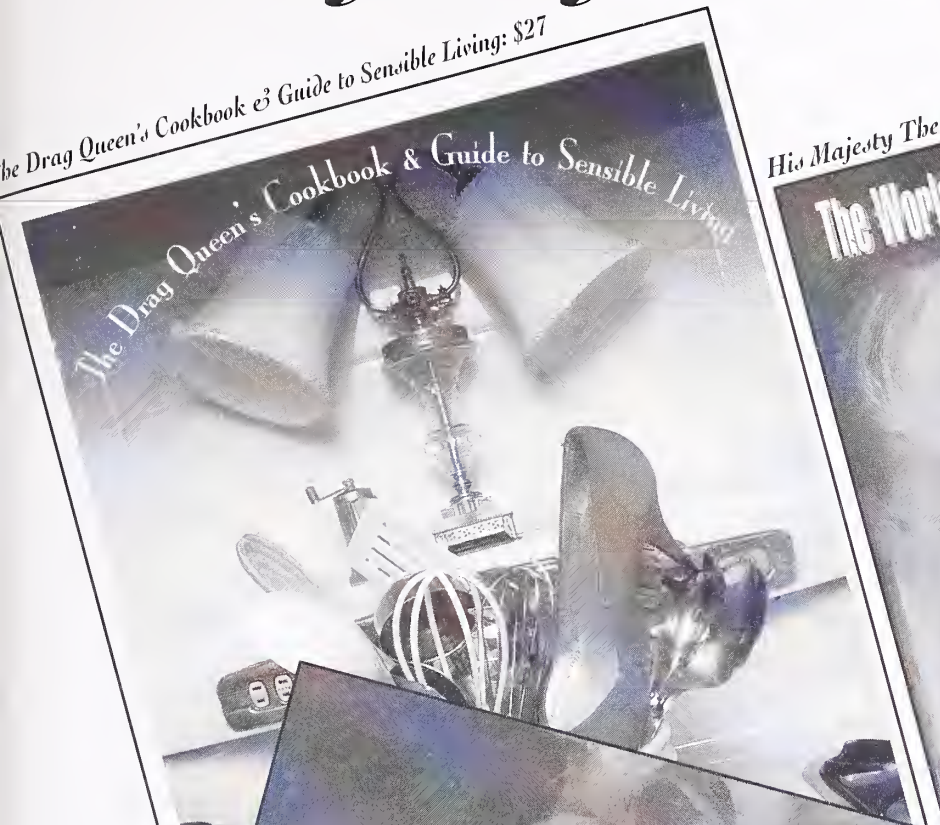
Meanwhile, with the increase, I believe we can hold the cover price for awhile and even increase the page count and/or color content. We'll have to see what the early part of 2000 holds.

You'll notice some changes over the next few issues. We've added Brenda Lawrence to our writer's stable. Lauri Ann has asked if she can retire from the video reviews and we're actively looking for someone who can do those types of reviews. I've also asked one or two other people to write for us, but I'm still waiting for their replies. Overall, I see us heading into 2000 with a firm grip on the magazine. Thank you, our loyal readers, as you've made it all possible.

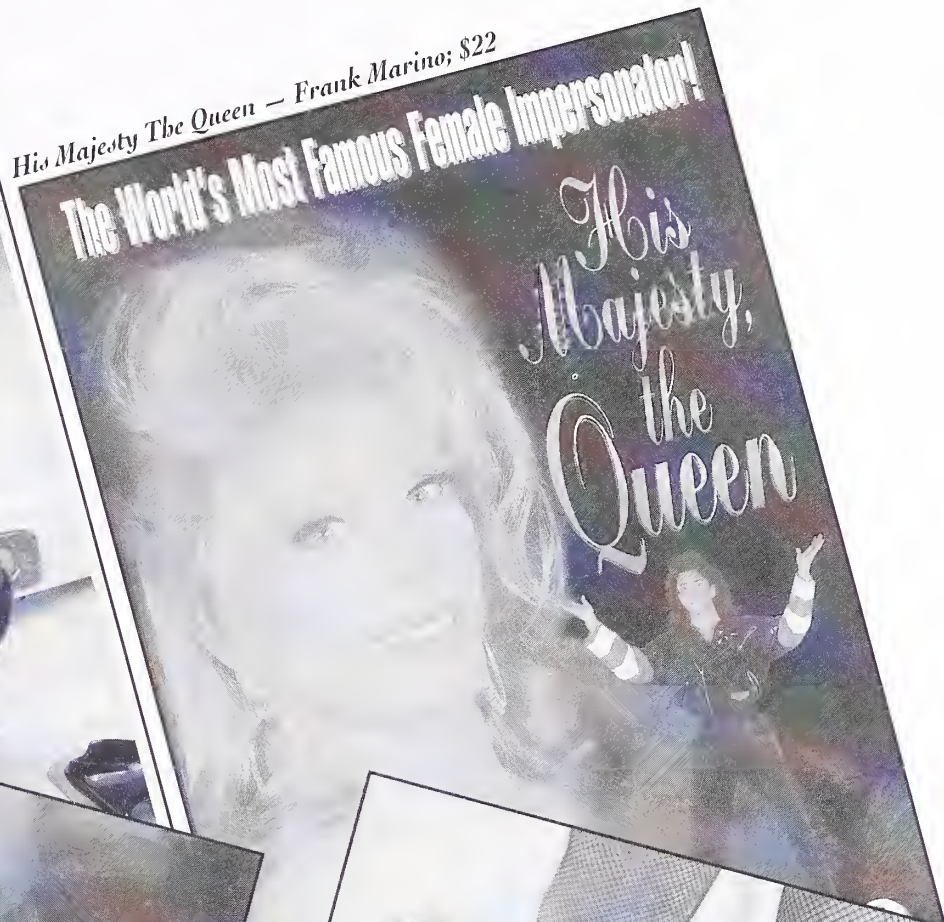
JoAnn Roberts

If anybody knows Drag, we do!

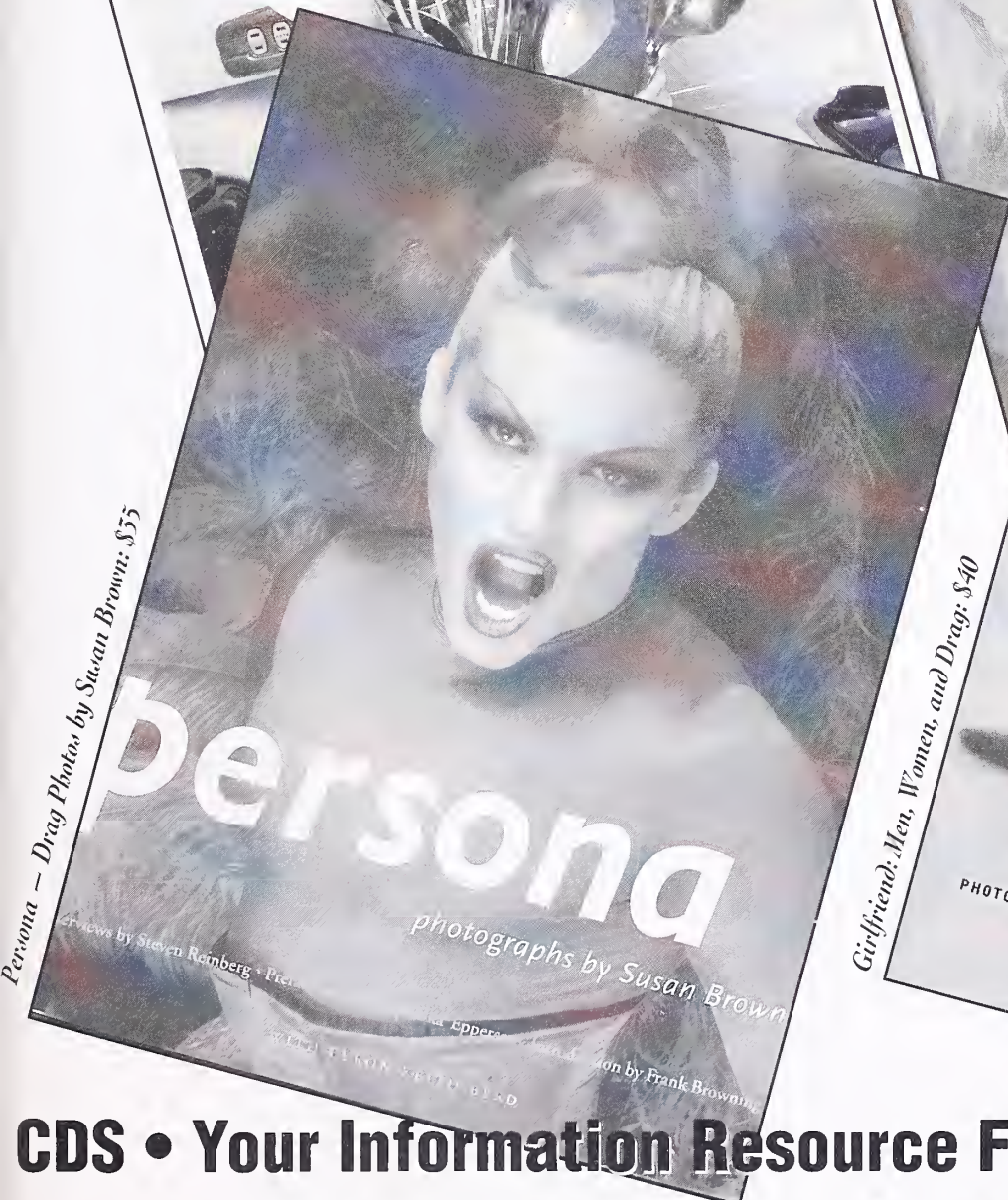
The Drag Queen's Cookbook & Guide to Sensible Living: \$27



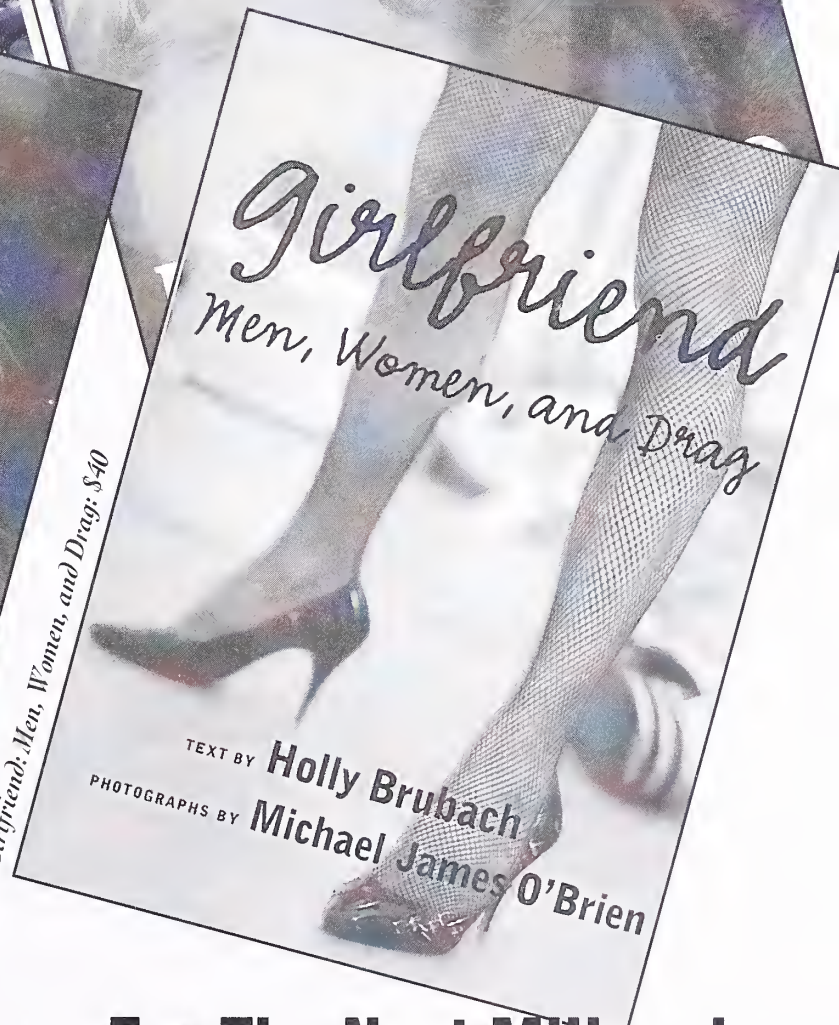
His Majesty The Queen — Frank Marino; \$22



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